

DRAFT
16 November 1976

The Honorable Brent Scowcroft
Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Brent:

Your memorandum of November 9 requested assistance in preparing material for the President's State of the Union message. My response will be rather brief. I am guided, first, by the fact that many of the Intelligence Community's more significant accomplishments cannot be cited in a public address; second, by the limited space allotted to intelligence matters in the President's last State of the Union address on January 19.

In that address the President stressed his intention to "take actions to reform and strengthen our Intelligence Community." I suggest, therefore, by way of follow-up, that he would wish to cite Executive Order 11905 and the progress made in its implementation as the most significant accomplishment of his Administration in the intelligence field during the last year. From the standpoint of reform, he could refer to those provisions of the Executive Order which protect the rights of individual American citizens and ensure the legality and propriety of intelligence activities. Also, it might be worthwhile to mention the improved control over intelligence expenditures which has been achieved through the establishment of the CFI. Thirdly, he could cite the establishment of review procedures for sensitive activities under the Operations Advisory Group.

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With regard to the strengthening of intelligence, our main accomplishment has been the substantial improvement in coordination of the various intelligence agencies. The Intelligence Community Staff is playing a particularly important role in expanding collaboration between intelligence services, preventing duplication, and ensuring that the requirements of policymakers are quickly recognized and acted on by appropriate agencies.

While, as I mentioned, the Intelligence Community cannot publicize the majority of its successes, I suggest that it would be appropriate to mention our success in monitoring Soviet military developments and the capability this provides the United States Government to ensure Soviet compliance with arms limitations agreements and to negotiate with confidence in the SALT and MBFR arenas.

Also, it might be worthwhile to cite the new challenges which face our intelligence agencies today: international narcotics traffic; the threat of terrorism; and the need for increased intelligence on economic and energy-related matters.

With regard to "unfinished business," I urge mention of the need for better secrecy legislation to prevent leaks damaging to national security, of which we have had far too many in recent months. ^HIf you require more specific information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Distribution:

George Bush

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